

# Hello, My Name is Joseph

MATTHEW 27:57-61

Joseph of Arimathea is a man that was much more courageous than many give him credit for. He was a man of great influence being influenced by the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. But Jesus was a threat to his upbringing and his career. But the way he handled these difficulties in his life is wonderful to behold.

1. Joseph was a \_\_\_\_\_ disciple.

2. Joseph was a \_\_\_\_\_ disciple.

3. Joseph was a \_\_\_\_\_ disciple.

**William Barkley:**  
Christianity is something which is meant to be seen. There can be no such thing as secret discipleship, for either the secrecy destroys the discipleship, or the discipleship destroys the secrecy. A man's Christianity should be perfectly visible to all men.

**Martin Luther:** For a disciple there are three conversions that are necessary ... the conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the wallet.

**Scripture References (In order of use):** Isaiah 53:5-9; Luke 23:50-51; John 19:38-40; March 15:43; Matthew 11:29; Philippians 4:5  
**Reference Works:** Commentary on the Gospel According to Matthew (Archibald T. Robertson); The Bible Exposition Commentary (Warren W. Wiersbe); The First Christian Primer: Matthew (Bob Utley); The Gospel of Matthew, Volume 2 (William Barclay); Expository Notes on the Gospel of Matthew (H. A. Ironside)

## Discussion Questions

1. Share a time when you had to muster courage to stand up for something you believed in. What was at stake? What helped you move forward?
2. Read **Matthew 27:57-61**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. What was Joseph of Arimathea's social standing, and how did it impact his discipleship?
4. "*Either the secrecy destroys the discipleship, or the discipleship destroys the secrecy.*" Which direction are you currently moving in your faith? What evidence would others see?
5. Joseph risked his career, reputation, and possibly his life to publicly honor Jesus. What fears keep you from being more open about your faith?
6. Where are you in your discipleship journey? Are you growing, stagnant, or regressing? What would help you take the next step?
7. Read **Philippians 4:5**. Who in your life has modeled this kind of gentle strength? What did that look like practically?
8. In what areas of your life do you struggle most to combine boldness with gentleness? (Examples: social media, family discussions, workplace conversations, political discourse)
9. Martin Luther said there are three conversions necessary for a disciple: heart, mind, and wallet—and the wallet is the hardest. Why do you think financial generosity is often the most difficult area of discipleship?
10. What is one practical way you could grow in generosity this week (time, talent, or treasure)?



Church buildings aren't supposed to be **landing strips**.  
They're supposed to be **launch sites**.

# Daily Devotions

## Day 1: The Courage to Be Seen

Reading: Mark 15:42-47

Joseph of Arimathea lived in the shadows, secretly following Jesus while maintaining his position on the Sanhedrin. But when Jesus died, something shifted. He found courage to step into the light, risking everything he had worked for. His discipleship destroyed his secrecy. Many of us hide our faith, afraid of what others might think or what we might lose. But genuine discipleship cannot remain hidden forever. Today, ask yourself: Is my secrecy destroying my discipleship, or is my discipleship destroying my secrecy? God is not calling you to reckless abandon, but to courageous authenticity. Where is He asking you to step out of the shadows and let your faith be visible?

## Day 2: Strength Under Control

Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

The Greek word for gentleness—*prou*—described war horses: powerful animals trained to respond to the slightest touch, standing firm in battle without panic. This is the gentleness God calls us to embody. In our culture of outrage and keyboard warriors, gentleness is a superpower. It's not weakness; it's strength under control. Joseph handled Jesus' broken body with tender respect, even in grief. Jesus Himself said, "I am humble and gentle at heart." Today's world needs bold believers who speak truth, but with gentleness that reflects Christ's character. How can you demonstrate power under control in your conversations today? Let your gentleness be evident to all.

## Day 3: The Cost of Following

Reading: Luke 14:25-33

Joseph faced a real dilemma: follow Jesus publicly and lose his career, reputation, family standing, and possibly his life. Yet when the moment came, he chose Christ over comfort. Discipleship always costs something. Jesus never promised an easy path; He promised a worthy one. Joseph teaches us that spiritual maturity isn't a light switch—it's a journey. You don't have to be perfect to follow Jesus, but you do have to be willing to grow. What is your faith costing you? If the answer is "nothing," perhaps you're still hiding in the shadows. True discipleship will require you to choose between the approval of people and the approval of God. Choose wisely.

## Day 4: Generous Hearts, Open Hands

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Joseph gave his new tomb—expensive, personal property. Nicodemus brought seventy-five pounds of burial spices worth a fortune. Together they treated Jesus like the King He was, even when the world had rejected Him. Martin Luther said there are three conversions necessary for a disciple: heart, mind, and wallet—and the third is hardest. Generosity reveals who truly owns us. Do we own our possessions, or do they own us? Joseph's generosity flowed from genuine faith. When God transforms your heart, your hands naturally open. Your treasure follows your heart. Today, consider: What is God asking you to give generously? It might be money, time, talent, or reputation. A lighter grasp on earthly things reveals a firmer grip on eternal ones.

## Day 5: Fulfilling Ancient Prophecies

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12

Seven hundred years before Christ, Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be "assigned with wicked men, yet with a rich man in His death." How could a crucified criminal end up in a rich man's tomb? Enter Joseph of Arimathea. God orchestrated every detail, using an unlikely disciple to fulfill ancient prophecy. This reminds us that God's plans are perfect and His timing is precise. Even when circumstances seem chaotic, God is working behind the scenes. Joseph probably never imagined he would play a crucial role in messianic prophecy, yet his faithfulness in the moment mattered eternally. You may not see how God is using your obedience today, but trust that He wastes nothing. Your small acts of faithfulness may be fulfilling purposes beyond your understanding.

## Deacons on Call

John Harris and Jason Swann

## Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** See you at VBS ... **June 28-July 1**
- **First Youth:** See Eric for end of school and summer schedule

# Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

TODAY'S MESSAGE

## Hello, My Name Is Joseph

MATTHEW 27:57-61

Verses we all  
need to Memorize

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **1 JOHN 1:9** ESV

MAY 3, 2026